

A NEW SPECIES OF SABAZIA (ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE) FROM  
DURANGO, MEXICO

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A forthcoming taxonomic treatment of the Asteraceae of Mexico (Turner and Nesom, in prep.) necessitates description of the following new species from Durango, Mexico.

Sabazia gonzalezae B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

S. liebmannii Klatt simile sed pedunculis brevioribus glanduli-pubescentibus et capitulis angustioribus campanulatis differt.

Perennial herbs 40-50 cm high, the stems single and arising from slender nodose rhizomes, the root system fibrous at each node. Stems stiffly hirsute below, this grading upwards into a dense vestiture of glandular-trichomes. Leaves opposite, 3-5 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide; petioles 2-5 mm long; blades ovate, 3-nervate, pubescent above and beneath, the leaves 6-8 dentate along each side, the apices acute to obtuse. Heads in a cluster of 3-4 in terminal corymbs, the latter on peduncles 9-11 cm long, the ultimate peduncles 0.8-2.0 cm long. Involucre campanulate, 3-4 seriate, more or less imbricate, 4-5 mm high, ca 6 mm wide; bracts ovate to elliptic, 3-5 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, somewhat scarious, the apices obtuse or rounded. Receptacular pales trifid. Ray florets 5-8; corollas white, the tube ca 2.5 mm long, densely pubescent, the ligules, 3-lobed, 5-8 mm long, ca 4 mm wide. Disk florets 20-30; corollas yellow, 4-5 mm long, the tube 1.0-1.5 mm long, the lobes ca 0.4 mm long. Achenes black, glabrous, striate, clavate, somewhat dorsally compressed, 2.0-2.5 mm long; pappus absent.

TYPE: MEXICO. DURANGO: Mpio. de Mesquital, 20 km de La Guajolota por al camino a Sn. Fco. Ocotan, 2440 m, 14 Nov 1985, M. Gonzalez et al. 1882 (holotype TEX; isotypes to be distributed)

Additional specimen examined: DURANGO: Mpio. de Mezquital, 7 km al N La Guajolota, rumbo a Las Papas, 27 Aug 1985, I Solis 362 (TEX).

Sabazia gonzalezae is related to the more southern S. liebmannii Klatt and, except for its slender rhizomes, would key to that species in Longpre's (1970) treatment

of the genus. McVaugh (1984), however, notes that the rhizomes of the latter may be thick or thin, which seems to be so, making the relationship between these two taxa fairly close. Within S. liebmannii the present taxon would key to the var. ovatifolia Longpre (confined to Oaxaca), largely because the leaves are less than twice as long as wide. Actually, S. liebmannii is a wide-ranging variable taxon and I can see little or no justification for the recognition of 4 varieties as accorded the species by Longpre. This might also be inferred from McVaugh's treatment of S. liebmannii, for he not only refers to Longpre's var. michoacana as a "form", he also sinks into synonymy under S. liebmannii the very different S. tridacoides Urbatsch & B. Turner. Actually the latter species is more closely related to taxa belonging to the recently resurrected Alloispermum (Robinson, 1979) than it is to Sabazia liebmannii. Unfortunately, McVaugh does not comment upon the generic problems relating to Alloispermum (a segregate from Calea) and I can only conclude that he has not understood the variation in this group, in spite of his observation that the characters of S. tridacoides "are not significantly different from those recorded for S. liebmannii."

Inclusion of the present taxon in Sabazia is provisional. It might be that this genus will ultimately reside in synonymy under the older Alloispermum (Robinson, 1979). If so, however, it must relate to the "Sabazioid" species within this group and not to those centering about A. caracasenum (H.B.K.) H. Rob., its generotype.

Its a pleasure to name this species for Dr. M. González who has assembled a fine series of Asteraceae from the Mezquital region of Durango.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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#### LITERATURE CITED

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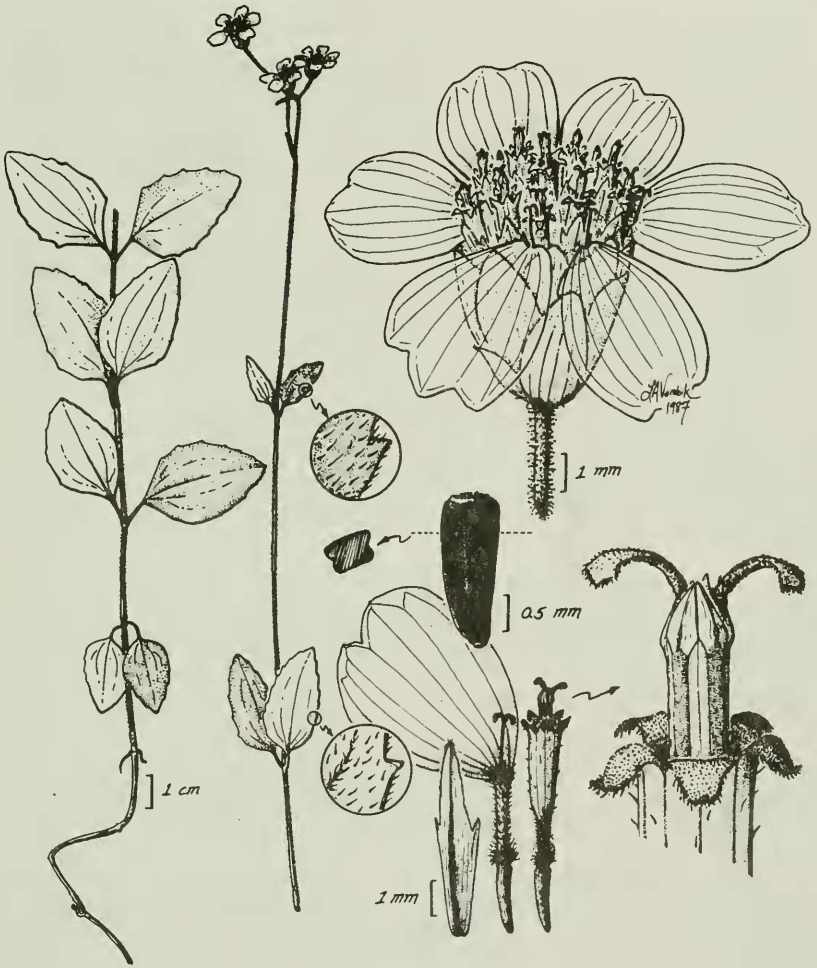


Fig. 1. *Sabazia gonzalezae*, from holotype.